Rs. 9.43 lakhs has been released to the Society by Orissa Government for activities such as deweeding, fisheries extension, soil conservation and plantation of coconut and mango trees around the lake.

(d) The scheme on National Lakes Conservation Plan has not been approved during VIII Five Year Plan.

Latur Victims

2589. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI PINAKI MISHRA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of donation received from Indian and foreign donors for rehabilitation of Latur victims;

(b) the total amount earmarked by the Central Government for rehabilitation of these victims and the total amount actually spent in this work so far; and

(c) the manner in which the Government are monitoring the utilisation of the funds meant for quake victims?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) According to information received from the Government of Maharashtra, an amount of Rs. 255.48 crores was received as donation from Indian and foreign donors for relief and rehabilitation of the victims of Latur earthquake of 1993.

(b) A Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake Rehabilitation Programme (MEERP) is being implemented in the affected areas with a project cost of Rs. 1182 crores consisting of World Bank credit of Rs. 835 crores, Government of Maharashtra contribution of Rs. 141 crores, Government of India contribution of Rs. 59 crores and Donor contribution of Rs. 147 crores. The expenditure incurred so far on the project is Rs. 735 crores.

(c) The MEERP is being implemented in a phased manner, with well established procedures for reporting, monitoring and accounting. The programme is reviewed at the highest levels in the State Government periodically. The World Bank Teams also regularly assess the progress of the Programme and utilisation of its credit.

Punjab Militants

2590. SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are seized of reports that the extremist and militant groups in Punjab continue to nurture their links with the foreign sources for financial support;

(b) if so, the extent of foreign funds flown into the hands of the militants in Punjab; and

(c) the strength of the extremist forces alongwith their hide outs in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The interrogation of Punjab terrorists arrested during 1996 have revealed that the foreign based militants are making available funds to the militants/sympathisers/harbourers based in India. As per reports, a sum of Rs. 25.34 lakhs relating to illegal Hawala transaction has been recovered in Punjab. The strength of the extremist forces cannot be given in absolute or specific terms as their numbers keeps on fluctuating depending on their clandestine movements in and out of India.

The Government is vigilant regarding the activities of the extremists. 83 militants/sympathisers/harbourers were apprehended by the Security Forces during this year upto October, 1996. The police and enforcement authorities are also vigilant in detecting Hawala transactions by militants in Punjab.

Narcotics/Drugs Trade

2591. SHRI RAMSAGAR :
SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of narcotics/drugs seized during the last six months, State-wise;

(b) the places of their illegal trade, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for the uprising trend in this illegal trade;

(d) whether the involvement of neighbouring countries has been found in this illegal trafficking;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the number of persons arrested in this regard alongwith their nationality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Statement-I is enclosed.

(b) Statement-II is enclosed.

(c) Narcotic drug trade is a clandestine activity and therefore it cannot be said definitely whether it is increasing or otherwise during any given period.

(d) and (e). By virtue of proximity to South West Asia on the Western border and Golden Triangle on the Eastern border, the two major illicit opiates producing region, India is highly vulnerable to drug trafficking.

(f) Statement-III is enclosed.